

Levy conciliatory after rift with Shamir

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy Monday sought to patch up his quarrel with Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, saying he was not "looking for any rift" with his old party rival. The statement followed a meeting Sunday intended to settle differences that grew out of Mr. Shamir's decision to head Israel's delegation to the Madrid peace talks, displacing Mr. Levy from that role. "I was not looking for any rift," Mr. Levy said. "The meeting was businesslike. It will have a continuation tomorrow or the day after tomorrow. I am guided by responsibility for this important, essential area of our life and I am convinced that he (Mr. Shamir) is too." After Mr. Shamir brushed Mr. Levy aside as head of the delegation to last week's peace conference, Mr. Levy refused to even travel to Madrid. Mr. Shamir included four foreign ministry officials in the 14-member team, but none was given a major role. On Friday, the ministry's acting director-general, Yosef Hadar, left abruptly, saying Mr. Shamir showed "contempt" for his ministry. But Monday, Mr. Levy denied suggestions that he ordered Mr. Hadar to return and added: "I hope this cloud will pass and there will be no more harm to the foreign ministry."

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Jordan: Palestinian file opened in front of the world

Masri: Arabs aware of pitfalls, will not allow differences in approach to exceed certain limits
Premier discloses consultations with parliamentary blocs, says 'results will be seen in a few days'

By Nermene Marad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Arab delegations which have opened peace talks with Israel are aware of the possible pitfalls and will not allow the conflict with Israel to be turned into a conflict among Arabs themselves as a result of unilateral actions, Prime Minister Taha Masri said Monday.

"It is not required that we should all move at the same speed but we cannot be divided or make unilateral agreements," the prime minister said.

"There is no written commitment on those points but a binding political and moral one," Mr. Masri said in an interview with the Jordan Times.

The first phase of the Middle East peace conference has ended mostly in favour of the Palestinians and the differences in

approach adopted by the Arab delegations to bilateral talks with Israel were procedural and not of substance, Mr. Masri said.

"...The Palestinian file has been opened in front of the world," Mr. Masri said. "The Palestinian performance was very good and so was the performance of the Jordanian delegation. In view of the internationally unacceptable positions of (Israel), there appears to be a support for the Arab view and in particular the Palestinian view," the prime minister told the Jordan Times in an interview.

Coordination between the Jordanian and Palestinian sides and "dealings in bilateral issues, whether Palestinian-Israeli or Jordanian-Israeli, will continue and will grow continuously," the prime minister added.

In the broad-ranging interview, the prime minister revealed that

he had launched consultations with various parliamentary blocs in an effort to reconcile before the reconvening of the regular session of Parliament in December.

"It is premature to talk about the results of such contacts but certainly they are intended to prepare for the next ordinary session of Parliament... what these contacts will result will come out in the coming few days," Mr. Masri said.

He added his primary aim behind the reconciliatory moves was to avert a crisis at this crucial juncture in Jordan's history.

On the economic front, Mr. Masri said Jordan was straining under the burden of foreign debts and had devised a series of measures aimed at addressing the problems.

Jordan is trying to further reschedule its foreign debt repay-

(Continued on page 5)

Syria, Israel agree to meet again

MADRID (Agencies) — Israel and Syria concluded a historic round of direct talks on a divisive issue Monday, but agreed to meet again. Hours earlier, Israel and a Jordanian-Palestinian team reported progress toward serious negotiations.

In a milestone meeting, Syria overcame its hesitations and met for five hours with Israel late Sunday and early Monday. But both sides accused the other of intransigence.

Syria's chief negotiator, Muafaq Alaf, complained that Israel refused to discuss the possibility of territorial concessions.

"Although we are not at all satisfied, we will continue talking with them," he said, adding that no time or place had been set.

Lebanon's delegation met

had been intransigent, speaking "empty words about peace" and refusing to discuss territorial concessions. He said the Israelis did all they could "to make the peace conference and the talks a waste of time."

"The Israelis as a people desire peace," Mr. Sharas said. "But the government is a special case. It is more hawkish, more intransigent than its people."

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Lebanon's delegation met

separately with Israeli counterparts under the second phase of the historic peace talks, which opened last week. Lebanon, like Syria, refused to agree on a mechanism for direct contacts and indicated that bilateral talks might not resume for a few months, Israeli officials said.

According to the Israelis, Syria insisted that contacts over the short term be made through U.S. intermediaries.

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Middle East News

France-Iran feud to be settled next month

NICOSIA (R) — Iran and France will sign a final agreement next month settling a financial dispute that has dogged relations since Tehran's 1979 Islamic revolution, the Iranian news agency IRNA reported Monday.

Mamoud Vaezi, deputy foreign minister for European and American affairs, told the Tehran newspaper Jomhuri Islam the agreement would be reached by a protocol for political, economic and cultural cooperation.

The two countries have spent two years negotiating a solution to the dispute, stemming from a \$1 billion loan which the late Shah of Iran made to the French atomic energy commission in 1974.

Mr. Vaezi, who has just returned from talks in Paris, said the agreement would be signed during a visit to Tehran by French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas. The IRNA report did not give a precise date.

France repaid a total of \$436 million by 1988. In addition to the balance, Tehran has claimed a further \$1 billion in interest.

Paris has claimed a similar sum to compensate for other contracts cancelled after 1979. A Swiss court last month ordered Iran to pay \$716 million damages to three French firms, in damages.

Mr. Vaezi said that under the



Farouq Al Sharar

Syria appeared to relish tough role in Madrid

MADRID (AP) — With the harshest rhetoric and the most dogged bargaining tactics, Syria appears to relish its role as Israel's toughest adversary at the Middle East peace conference.

From retaliating to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's attack by calling him a terrorist to arguing over when and where to start the first bilateral talks, the Syrian delegation attracted attention and plenty of Israeli wrath.

Egypt and Saudi Arabia pursued the Syrians to proceed with the peace process but fear that they have handed the Israelis an advantage by their obstinacy.

"The Syrians succumbed to the trap Shamir put for them and are fighting every inch, every minute," said Tahseen Besher, a former spokesman for the Egyptian government and now a political analyst.

The Syrians have become tainted in a negative way in the eyes of the West because of this position, but do not forget they are also being considered as positive in the eyes of the Arabs," Mr. Tahseen said by telephone from Cairo.

The joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation unnecessary clashes and were the first to sit down for bilateral talks with the Israelis on Sunday.

Throughout various disputes, the Syrians pointed to the Israelis as the real obstacle.

"We have come here for peace. We shall continue to work for peace out of our faith in this peace," Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharar told the conference.

"However, Israel would be

gravely mistaken were it to interpret this Arab response as a licence for it to perpetuate its intransigent stands within the conference or any of its committees."

Syria's stance extended even to news conferences, where Mr. Sharar refused to answer questions from Israeli journalists.

Since Egypt broke ranks with the Arabs in 1979 and signed the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty, Syria has been at the forefront of the Arab drive to liberate the occupied lands.

They removed an offensive

tapestry from one room, and carefully checked another in the main hall and found that although it showed the Greek god Bacchus, it did not depict his favourite beverage, wine, which might offend teetotaling Muslims.

The catering service for the press centre was not so careful, serving ham to Jews and Muslims, both of whom shun pork.

Pork was the main component

in most of the estimated 123,000 sandwiches gobbled over five days by journalists, organisers and security workers who roamed through the press centre at Madrid's trade fair hall, said Vicente Clemente, spokesman for the Riesgo Cotel catering service.

Before coming to Madrid, Arab delegates met in Damascus and agreed to the Syrian demand that they adopt a united position and that no one would go ahead with a unilateral peace treaty as Egypt did.

That led to the last obstacle

before Syria finally sat down with Israel on Sunday night — a dispute about the location. As a gesture of solidarity with the other Arab contingents, the Syrians insisted that their separate meetings with Israel should all be in the same place, although at different times.

For breakfast, they daily ate 3,500 croissants and other rolls, and during the long days and nights, gobbled 6,000 litres of coffee and 7,000 cans of soda.

After the opening speech last

Wednesday by Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, his compatriots kept a low profile. So low that few people noticed when Soviet Foreign Minister Boris

Shultz arrived.

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Race across desert to promote tourist sites

AMMAN (J.T.) — Attention this month will be focused on tourist sites in the desert and archaeological areas of Jordan which will serve as an arena for a series of activities, including a car rally organised by the El Sol Spanish magazine in cooperation with the Ministry of Tourism and Archaeology.

A ministry statement said Monday that the series of activities are designed to help market Jordan in European countries in general and in Spain in particular.

The race will follow the so-called Nabatean route covering all the archaeological and desert sites in Jordan, according to the ministry statement.

It said that nearly 50 competitors from Spain, in addition to unspecified numbers from Jordan and other countries, will take part in the car rally. The progress of the rally will be presented daily on Spain's radio and television stations through satellite, with the scenes showing the various parts of archaeological sites located along the route, the statement added.

It said the event came as a result of intensive efforts on the part of the ministry, working in conjunction with the national air carrier Royal Jordanian (RJ). Acting through tour operators and in cooperation with the media in Europe in the past few months, the ministry has succeeded in paving the way for the coming events.

The statement noted that a similar programme was organised by the Spanish magazine in Morocco last year.

It said that the rally will be held as part of the Kingdom's celebrations of His Majesty King Hussein's birthday on Nov 14. To pave the ground for the event, Minister of Tourism Abdul Karim Al Kabriti Monday met with teams of Spanish journalists and spoke in detail about the tourism industry in Jordan, services offered to visitors, tourist projects underway and future plans.



Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Thabet Al Taher Monday discusses the importance of

effectively using the country's natural resources at the opening of a geologists' seminar (Petra photo)

Official cites need for Jordan to better utilise natural resources

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan needs to double its efforts to exploit its natural resources in view of the growing population and the increasing requirements of social and economic development in the Kingdom, according to Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Thabet Al Taher.

While utilising the natural resources of the country, the concerned authorities should take into account effects on the environment, which should be safeguarded for future generations, said the minister in an address at the opening of the Fourth Conference of Jordanian Geologists which started Monday.

The conference's title, "Geology in the Service of the National Economy," reflects the keenness of the Jordanian Geologists Association (JGA) to link the utilisation of natural resources to socio-economic development in Jordan, the minister said.

He reviewed the natural and mineral wealth found in the Arab world and called on Arab countries to cooperate in their ex-

ploitation of these resources through exchange of expertise and information and the transfer of modern technology which should be placed at the disposal of developmental needs.

Mr. Taher, who stood in for Prime Minister Taher Masi in opening the two-day meetings, wished the geologists success in their endeavours to serve the national interest.

Dr. Sami Sharif, the Arab Geologists Federation secretary general, voiced appreciation of the JGA's endeavours and programmes designed to help bolster the national economy. He said that Jordanian geologists were working hard in prospecting for new minerals and water studies, adopting modern technology in utilising the existing minerals and cooperating with various organisations to achieve the aspired goal.

George Haddadin, JGA president, told the meeting that his association has been pursuing efforts to help the country exploit oil shale to produce oil. Studies

conducted by the JGA served as a basis for the phosphate, potash, fertiliser, cement, rock, wool, and white cement as well as glass industries in Jordan, Mr. Haddadin said.

But, he added, a number of obstacles impede the association's activities largely due to the lack of sufficient and accurate information and data about mineral rock.

Fire causes minimal damage, no casualties

AMMAN (Petra) — A fire which broke out at a video cassette store in the Jabal Hussein area Monday completely destroyed the store's contents but caused no casualties or other damage to neighbouring stores.

A spokesman for the Civil Defence Department (CDD) said that the fire, which was apparently caused by a short circuit, engulfed the whole store, burning all its contents.

Two teams of firemen assisted by scales and cranes were rushed to the store, located on the fifth floor of the Sukaina Shopping Centre Complex, and helped to evacuate the building.

According to the spokesman, heavy smoke filled the neighbouring rooms and offices as well as stores selling clothes and other inflammable materials.

In one of the stores, large amounts of ammonia bottles were found moved to a safe place away from the heat, the spokesman added. He said that only the contents of the store were destroyed thanks to the speedy and intensive efforts of the firemen, one of whom was overcome with smoke and had to be evacuated to nearby hospital.

Traffic along the main Jabal Hussein street was temporarily disrupted to make room for the fire engines and the fire fighting operations.

Photograph exhibit depicts Gulf war

AMMAN (Petra) — An exhibition of photographs entitled "War on Culture and Creativity" was opened Sunday at the Royal Cultural Centre. The exhibition, which is organised by the Jordanian Committee for Saving the Cultural Heritage in Iraq in cooperation with the Jordanian Popular Committee for Supporting Iraq, displays photos depicting the destruction of the Iraqi cities by the U.S.-led alliance in the Gulf war.

The minister said the world and the regional economic recession has adversely affected the country and its labour and employment sectors.

Furthermore, he said, developments in the labour markets of the neighbouring Arab states have had their negative impact on the labour market in Jordan, affecting social and economic sectors of the Kingdom.

The regional consultant for ILO, Luma Nasr, said that the seminar aims to create awareness as the importance of these informal businesses so that they too can benefit from social security.

"We hope that as a result of this seminar we can come up with ideas and suggestions to help solve the problem of unemployment which, she said, has been aggravated with the return to Jordan by some 300,000 people from the Gulf states.

"Our of weekend annual leave, official holidays, sick leaves, severance pay and indemnities, employees in informal businesses only get their indemnities and severance pay," he said. "We are talking about 70,000 industries categorised as informal."

According to Mr. Dajani, employees working in informal businesses, including self-employed people specialising

Jordan says former West Bank Palestinians must return

By Rana Sabbagh

Reuters

AMMAN — Jordan said on Monday it would insist that more than 500,000 Palestinians who have lived in the Kingdom since the 1967 Middle East war return to the West Bank as part of any peace deal.

The Kingdom, home to nearly one million Palestinian refugees from two Arab-Israeli wars, also pledged to press for compensation for itself and those Palestinians who had lost property during the creation of Israel in 1948.

Adel Irshaid, head of the Foreign Ministry Palestinian Affairs Department, said the fate of 960,212 Palestinians registered with the U.N. as being in Jordan would be tackled during the third phase of peace talks which will also cover other regional matters such as arms control and water rights.

"Regarding those who became displaced in 1967, Jordan will insist that they return to the West Bank to join the new political situation that will

emerge there at the end of the peace talks," Mr. Irshaid, Jordan's top refugee official told Reuters, in an interview.

The U.N. figure includes 430,083 official refugees who fled their homes in areas on which the Jewish state was created in 1948. The rest, those who came to Jordan during the 1967 war when the West Bank was under Jordanian rule, are registered as displaced.

"Jordan will depend on U.N. Resolution 194 in dealing with the refugees of 1948," Mr. Irshaid said.

Resolution 194, passed in 1948, says Palestinians anywhere have the right to return or be compensated for lost property.

Officials say the bill, which has been growing in the four decades since Israel was created, totals billions of dollars.

Most officials and individuals say the refugees of 1948

would not be allowed to return as part of a peace settlement but many expect to win hefty compensation and stay in Jordan.

They say Jordan itself expects compensation for past

and future health care, education and other services.

Mr. Irshaid had no figures but said Amman would seek help from a U.N. unit set up in 1950 to assess compensation.

Jordan's Land and Survey Department, he added, had received from the United Nations all records of real estate owned by Palestinians in the pre-1948 boundaries of Israel.

Palestinians are pressing for an independent state on the West Bank and in Gaza Strip. Such a state would be in confederation with Jordan which has strong economic, political and demographic links with the Israeli-occupied territories.

The peace conference which brought Israel and its Arab foes to the negotiating table for the first time in 43 years aims at giving Palestinians autonomy over the next five years.

Negotiations about their final status are due to begin within three years.

Some lawyers are calling for compensation for refugees' real estate based on current market prices.

"Property owners should be compensated," said Raja' Dajani, a lawyer and a former interior minister. "Those who had no real estate should also be compensated because they were uprooted and had to start a new life in agony in the diaspora."

Mr. Dajani said the same formula that was used by Germany to compensate the Jews for the Nazi holocaust could be used.

Many Palestinian refugees, who still have keys to the homes they left 43 years ago in the hope of returning one day, are taking a more pragmatic approach.

"No matter how hard reality is, I don't think we will ever go back," said refugee camp dweller Mousa Yousef. "But we are ready to stay here and improve our living conditions if we get good compensation."

Mr. Irshaid said Palestinians were thronging the offices of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in Jordan to ensure they were registered as refugees.

The minister voiced Jordan's appreciation of UNIDO and of the Arab Company for Drug Industries and Medical Appliances (ACDIMA), which is the symposium's co-sponsor.

The minister said that ACDIMA has been offering valuable assistance to the pharmaceutical industries of Jordan and other Arab countries. ACDIMA Director General Muwaffaq Haddadin said that his company's activities are designed to help the Arab world attain self-sufficiency in medicine production.

Delegates taking part in the three-day meetings represent the ministries of health in Jordan, Oman, Bahrain, Egypt, Sudan, Yemen, Libya, Algeria, Tunisia as well as pharmaceutical companies of the Arab world.

Symposium provides forum for exchange of information in pharmaceutical field

AMMAN (J.T.) — Delegates from nine Arab countries and representatives of Arab universities and pharmaceutical industries gathered in Amman Monday for a three-day symposium on pharmaceutical support industries.

The seminar is organised here by the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) in cooperation with the Health Ministry.

The main topic for discussion is wrapping and packaging processes connected with the medicine industry in the Arab world, according to Dr. Jaafar Abdul Ghani, UNIDO representative.

Dr. Abdul Ghani reviewed UNIDO's efforts to promote the pharmaceutical industries of the Arab world, which in turn contribute towards the development of

Arab economies.

According to Dr. Abdul Ghani, the developing nations consume some 20 per cent of the world's medicines and the Arab world, along with other developing countries, needs to double its efforts to become self-sufficient in medicines.

Health Minister Mamdouh Al Abbadi, who opened the sessions, underlined the importance of inter-country cooperation in the wrapping and packaging of medicines and in overcoming the obstacles impeding production and marketing.

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Arab countries in covering a great portion of the national needs of medicine.

Delegates from nine Arab countries including Jordan will be discussing a lot of diseases, particularly those affecting children and mothers, and steps to international cooperation to stem them.

Jordan seeks international cooperation to combat such diseases and provide immunisation against them, said Health Minister Mamdouh Al Abbadi.

Addressing the opening session of the "Inter-Country Workshop on Epidemiological Surveillance for Expanded Programme on Immunisation and Target Diseases," the minister said that cooperation was urgent to eradicate such diseases as polio, tetanus and measles.

Jordan, the minister said, has made big strides in the immunisation programme to combat diseases through immunisation programmes, he said.

He added that further work-

shops and symposiums dealing with this subject should be held in the countries of the region to draw attention to immunisation programmes.



Mamdouh Al Abbadi

polio, diphtheria and tetanus among other killer diseases.

Dr. Abdul Majid Hadi, WHO representative in Amman, read out a message by Dr. Hussein Jazairi, the WHO regional director, dwelling on means of preventing the spread of diseases through immunisation.

The WHO has been exerting strenuous efforts within the countries of the region to deal with polio, tetanus, measles and other children's diseases through national programmes, he said.

He added that further workshops and symposiums dealing with this subject should be held in the countries of the region to draw attention to immunisation programmes.

Prince visits war college

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Monday visited the Royal War College where he was briefed on its activities. Prince Hassan met with students and members of its steering committee.

The prince has been exerting

strenuous efforts within the countries of the region to deal with

polio, tetanus, measles and other children's diseases through national programmes, he said.

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shops and symposiums dealing with this subject should be held in the countries of the region to draw attention to immunisation programmes.

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The closing date for submission tender is 12:00 hours local time Thursday Dec. 12, 1991.

Wasef Azar
Managing Director

Features

Jordan: Palestine file is opened

(Continued from page 1)

was very good and so was the performance of the Jordanian delegation. Also in view of the internationally unaccepted positions of (Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak) Shamir there appears to be a support for the Arab view and in particular the Palestinian view. There is no doubt that his this will develop as talks continue. If it is possible to say that the first phase had ended then it has ended to the favour of the Arab view and more precisely in favour of the Palestinian.

Q: How do you see then next phases? More precisely, the parallel bilateral and multilateral talks? Can you give us a broad overview of what is yet to come? A: There are clear issues which are limited to Jordan both in their intricacies and their extent. But the Jordanian handling of the talks will not be solely connected to these limited issues. Following up developments in the Palestinian problem and in coordinating with the Palestinian delegation on this issue. This does not mean that there will be an interference in the Palestinian negotiations but there will be an interchange. What takes place in the West Bank and Gaza Strip negatively reflects on the situation in Jordan and that was true before the conference and through any developments in the Palestinian problem or Israeli measures in the occupied territories and will also be true in the negotiations on the interim period. Throughout the dealing or meetings of the Jordanians and the Palestinians it was clear that there was understanding for this (interchange) and Jordan dealt with the Palestinians on this basis. You will find that the coordination between the two delegation and the dealings in bilateral issues whether Palestinian-Israeli or Jordanian-Israeli will continue and will grow continuously.

Q: Some analysts have expressed the fear that there isn't enough commitment in coordination among the Arab delegations to ensure that there will not be unilateral solutions by one state or hindrance of the development of a solution of the Palestinian problem because of the intransigence of another Arab state. How would comment on these theories?

A: All these issues are there in the minds of the Arab delegations and they want to avoid any conflict, or avoid transferring the conflict from the Arab side towards Israel to become a conflict among the Arabs themselves. Therefore it was obvious in Madrid that the initial Arab position were similar to a large extent. What followed was not a real conflict as such because it dealt with procedural matters rather than issues of substance on the Palestinian problem. As we stand in Jordan we will not allow any conflict to develop to the extent where this theory would become true. We are aware of this and we think that this also applies to Syrians and the Lebanese. What happened on Saturday while preparing for the bilateral meetings on Sunday has proven that the understanding, coordination and effort between the Jordanians and the Palestinians was on the same wavelength and almost total and therefore things went the way they did. This will be built upon. And it was not the result of a coincidence that occurred at that place but a result of coinciding in thought and correlation in interest and a common vision to the future.

A: In fact we did not prevent except one rally and that was before the conference. All newspapers which express Arab stands whether they are with or against the conference are allowed to enter the country and are distributed ... we did not confiscate any newspaper except for one and only for one week because it carried phrases which we cannot allow, however I should stress that differences in views are allowed. Magazines printed abroad are allowed (and available in the markets).

Q: Is there a concrete decision taken on that point?

A: At least I am speaking for the Palestinians and Jordanians. I know that there is a decision to that effect. We are committed to it and we are following it.

Q: But the agreement (among the Arab delegations) has not reached a committing detailed plan?

A: There is no commitment because you cannot commit the Syrians to many issues precisely because the problems which will be faced by the Syrians and the Israelis will be different from those faced by the Jordanians and Israelis or the Palestinians and Israelis.

Therefore we understood from the beginning that there might be progress in negotiations on one front more than another front. It is not required that we should all move in the same speed but we cannot be divided or make unilateral agreements and I think that there is no written commitment on those points but a binding political and moral one among delegations.

Q: There were reports that a Palestinian party would call for a confederation between Jordan, Palestine, Israel and Lebanon. What is your position towards such an idea?

A: We differed in Madrid with Israel on the venue for bilateral negotiations. Israel wants to move it to the region as a way of normalising relations and we have refused this because it is premature to discuss such a step before any tangible development in negotiations takes place. So how, when we differ on a venue, can we be expected to discuss a confederation? These are theoretical reports and are not practical. We have priorities which we have to deal with and conclude.

Among these priorities are Israeli withdrawal, self-determination for Palestinians and Jewish settlements. These are the issues that will have priority. I actually believe that no Palestinian party would issue such a call but perhaps there are people who aim to disperse the Arab thoughts and make us divide our thinking over very wide areas instead of limiting ourselves in limited issues. Therefore I do not think that this is a realistic position or practical or even applicable.

Q: What if the ordinary session reconvenes and the situation between the government and parliament does not improve?

A: It is premature to issue a judgement on this issue but it should be admitted that there are existing facts. One is that there is a petition, which may now be of no value because of the absence of parliament, but it exists and it does express some delegations' stands. There are also parliamentary blocks which have contradictory stands. It is true that they have agreed on one point, but they have their political and local stands which are not similar. But it is very important at this time to avoid a crisis ... we should avoid getting into a crisis at any price because it might reflect negatively on the general situation ... I personally think that my first job is to avoid that crisis so that we may protect the things we gained and the foundations by which we have worked.

Q: As we speak about democracy and division of roles among the supporters of the peace conference, your government has been criticised for banning public gatherings, or interfering some which rejected peaceful solutions with Israel? How do you respond?

talk further on the issue. What these contacts would result in would come out in the coming few days.

Q: What are the reasons you think led to this state of affairs?

A: When this government was formed, I put all my efforts into making it a parliamentary government, as far as possible. Although the Muslim Brotherhood did not join, I thought I had the consent of all the other blocs in parliament. But some of the blocs deny they had made any contribution to the formation of the government. The fact is that all the blocs were consulted. Deputies were chosen to become ministers according to that formula. Some blocs said the formulation was not in accordance with the agreement. Some tension and protestation arose during the confidence session.

However, the government got the vote of confidence. New elements were added. The political situation in the region was one. Another was my own evaluation of the government. And yet another was the formation of new blocs. This led to a regrettable clash between the executive and legislative branches. This also resulted in deputies signing a paper (calling on the government to

cover it or hear it, but there was one. Several others took place in Al Wehdat refugee camp and Jordanian community colleges. They had no problems, were not prevented and no one said anything about holding them. The gathering at the Professional Union Complex was something we did not oppose and we were the ones who sanctioned it in the first place.

This meeting might take place in December. But the success of such negotiations will depend on Jordanian economic measures that should be taken. Such measures are limited to a small frame. It is untrue that the government will lift subsidies on some food supplies. The subsidies should go to those who deserve it. (They must) be used in a way which will benefit those who need them.

For example, flour is not used only in making bread but also in confectionaries, it is sold to foreigners, confectionary factories etc ... Our view is that the Jordanian government or treasury, or in other words, the Jordanian citizens, should support such products which are not essential to the laymen. Our assessment is that these industries do not deserve the support and we want to direct our subsidies to the normal citizens who deserve such support.

Q: Tension between the government and parliament has been evident during the past few months, but as we are approaching the reconvening of parliament will there be conciliatory moves? Will there be a cabinet reshuffle? Or will parliament be dissolved?

A: The government is holding contacts with parliamentary blocs. These are cordial and responsible contacts. It is premature to talk about the results of such contacts. But certainly they are intended to prepare for the next ordinary session of parliament (Dec. 1).

The government and parliament must find a way to surpass the crisis that we passed through. The present circumstances do not permit any imbalances in the equation between government and the House. The equation that existed between parliament and all previous governments. I must say that a positive spirit is being crystallised, and I do not want to

bode well for the future," said Mr. Baker, who made eight trips to the Middle East since the end of the Gulf war to organise a peace conference.

Asked what Mr. Bush meant by his comment that "interruptions will probably occur," in the process, Mr. Fitzwater said the president was just cautioning against over-optimism.

"They want to be prepared for any occurrence and not be overly optimistic. Everybody wants to be realistic in terms of the process and prospects, but also to make sure people don't get discouraged if something like that does happen," he said.

Before his departure from Madrid, Mr. Baker said that the Mideast conference marked a "good beginning" to ending regional conflict, and promised the United States would continue to mediate.

But he said at a news conference that Israelis and Arabs had not yet reached an agreement on

every branch to perform its own duties. We are not the only country in the world that bases its powers on this. All democracies learn their lessons through trial and error. Through that they reached to a formula. I do not know if we are going into that direction. The coming days and weeks will show the extent of our understanding of the nature of the relationship (between the legislature and the executive).

They will provide us with the formula that will allow co-existence between the two.

Withdrawing confidence from a government is both democratic and constitutional. But the reason for that should be real not temporal. This we will find out before House's next session.

Jordan, in my opinion, is passing through a transitional period. It is true that we are living in a democratic atmosphere, but democracy is new to us. It is true that we have institutions, but these institutions did not assume their role so far. This government is entrusted to bridge the gap between the past and the present. That is why we are facing difficulties. We did not leave the past and we are not the sons of the future. We are still in the middle; our thinking is not clear. The government is suffering from all these accumulations: We want to move society from old frames, through democracy, openness and parliament, into the future.

A future that has traditions and concepts of constitution, powers political parties, and freedom. All these are concepts that, regrettably, so far are not clearly defined. Each person interprets these concepts as he/she sees fit. In this transitional period we are passing through, this government is ready to bear all these interpretations. But we have to move on. I think the coming legislations on political parties, the press and others will help us transit this period into the future.

Jordan rejects Israeli contention

(Continued from page 1)

three weeks. Both of the talks will go on."

"The success of the bilateral talks might have a positive influence on the multilaterals and vice-versa, but it is better to leave discussing the issue till the features of the coming stage become clearer," he added.

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Dr. Muasher, head of the Jordan Information Bureau in Washington who was specially assigned as the Kingdom's spokesman at the peace conference, told Radio Jordan in an interview from Madrid that during Sunday's meeting "the two sides exchanged views and the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation opposed continuing the negotiations in the Middle East as Israel wants."

Israel has been insisting that the talks rotate between the concerned Arab country and the Jewish state in an obvious bid to restructure what it sees as an additional legitimacy. The Arabs rejected the demand and said anywhere in Europe or elsewhere but not the Middle East was acceptable to them.

Dr. Muasher said that during Sunday's talks, the issue of separating the joint delegation into Jordanian and Palestinian teams for separate bilateral talks with Israel on the Jordanian and Palestinian dimensions on the Arab-Israeli conflict was discussed but no agreement was reached.

"Even this issue was not agreed upon, but it will be discussed in the next round of talks," Dr. Muasher said.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir appeared to take a view in this respect. He told Israel Radio Monday that his country would treat the joint delegation as one delegation and hold discussions as such. There was no immediate indication whether this would pose any hurdle in the next round of talks.

In his comments to the press Monday, Dr. Majali also reaffirmed Jordan's position vis-a-vis the Israeli demand for shifting the venue for talks to the Middle East.

"To start with, we understand that Madrid, if it is good for the general, then it is good for the bilateral," he said. "But the Israelis are refusing this, and we were saying this is the place. They tried to give the Middle East as a venue. There are lots of difficulties about having it in the Middle East for no reason."

"We are here to negotiate about peace, about normalisation, about land, about recognition of the Palestinians rights and so on. We just cannot jump to the end of whatever is going to come out of the negotiations and start with it and then go back to the first. So let the first be first and the last be last."

Haider Abdul Shafi, head of the Palestinian team in the joint delegation, told Jordan Television that the main priority for the Palestinians was to get an agreement on the stage of self-rule for the Palestinians in the occupied territories as a prelude to independence.

"We do not want to leave the impression that we accept self-rule as an end by itself," he said. "We will be discussing the issue of stopping the settlements (in

the occupied territories) as an indicator and evidence that the self-rule period will be a transition to national independence."

In Bonn, the Jordanian ambassador to Germany, Khalid Madadha, said Israel should prove its seriousness and willingness for peace by halting settlements activities.

"We are hoping that Europe will play an important role in the peace process" but Israel is obstructing Europe from playing such a role, Mr. Madadha told a press conference addressed by his counterparts from all other Arab countries involved in the Middle East peace conference.

"I would like to respond to the exotic interpretation of 242 which we have heard yesterday.

"The only legal interpretation of 242 is that it applies to all the territories occupied, not one part of it. I need not remind you of the principle of the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by war embedded in Resolution 242, but selectively omitted by the Israeli spokesman. All drafters of 242 have agreed that it applies to all fronts and not only to the Egyptian front as he claimed."

"Successive Israeli governments have not disputed the applicability of 242 to all fronts. The essence of the problem is the question of Palestine and not only the Egyptian Sinai, which was occupied as a result of the Palestinian problem. The 'secure borders' in 242 apply to all countries in the region, not only Israel. Events have shown that it is the Arab that are in need of security and security does not come from territorial acquisition."

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(Continued from page 1)

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Following is the full text of a statement Dr. Majali read out at his press conference in Madrid Monday:

"I would like to welcome you to this press conference. I would like to say that we are satisfied with the events of the last week and hope that they constitute the beginning of the road towards a comprehensive and just peace based on United Nations resolutions 242 and 338 and the principle of land for peace."

"We are gratified that the Palestinian identity has finally re-



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Sports

Kasparov assured of winning in Tilburg

TILBURG, Netherlands (AP) — World champion chess player Gary Kasparov of the Soviet Union assured himself the title of the 15th annual Interpolis Chess Tournament Sunday without touching a piece or even showing up in the arena.

The decisive victory, which nets the world champion \$12,500 of the \$55,000 total prize fund in this strongest tournament ever held, was not his own doing but that of Indian grandmaster Viswanathan Anand.

Ironically, Anand gave Kasparov a helping hand not by winning but by losing.

With only Monday's final round to go, Anand, known as Vishy, was lagging 1.5 points behind the world champion in the tournament standings. But he had a favourable ending in his adjourned game with black from last week's 11th round match against U.S. champion Gata Kamsky and felt sure he would narrow the gap to half a point in Sunday's completion.

When at last he thought the moment had arrived, his pawn push at the 98th proved a blunder that left him with no more than an equal position, and by adding another error one move later he lost the game.

Suddenly, the black king was

trapped in a mating net. Speechless, Anand surrendered on his 101st.

In Monday's 14th and final round, Kasparov is pitted with white against his archenemy and fellow Soviet grandmaster Anatoly



Gary Kasparov

ly Karpov.

However, Kasparov is 1 1/2 points clear of the field and will

win the tournament even if he loses to the former world champion.

Added Taylor: "Bryan has been as good as anyone in recent games but he measures himself as being better.

"I have tremendous admiration for all he has done for England over the past decade but things don't go on for ever."

Robson first stepped on to the England stage against Ireland in February 1980.

He was dubbed "captain marvel" for his inspirational midfield

performances by former England manager Bobby Robson and would easily have passed the 100-cap mark but for a series of serious injuries.

Ferguson welcomed the retirement of his club captain from the international arena.

"Bryan has done more than his share for England and everyone knows this," he said. "He has been a wonderful ambassador for club and country. I think he's made the right decision."

Robson quits international soccer

LONDON (R) — Bryan Robson, Manchester United's former England captain, quit international football Monday.

Robson, who played for his country in three world cups, announced his decision after he was omitted from England's squad for a vital European Championship qualifier against Poland in Poznan on Nov. 13.

England manager Graham Taylor explained that Robson was ready to quit after he gained

his 90th cap in the disappointing 1-0 win over Turkey last month but was persuaded by United manager Alex Ferguson to wait and see if he was selected for the Poland trip.

"If I had selected Bryan for Poland he would have delayed his retirement but he's 34 and together with Alex has come to realise it is getting more difficult for him to play every three days," Taylor said.

Sampdoria faces possible exit

By Reuters

ITALIAN champions Sampdoria, struggling in the shadow of AC Milan's great achievements before them, face possible elimination from the European Cup before even reaching the new round robin stage.

Sampdoria, who sank to sixth from bottom in the league after a 2-1 defeat at Napoli Sunday, must come back from a 2-1 first leg deficit against Honved Budapest in their second round tie with Genoa Wednesday.

In contrast to Sampdoria, Italy's illustrious trio of absentees from European competition this season, Milan, Juventus and Napoli occupy the top three spots in the league table.

"Milan get under way," ran a banner headline in the sports daily Gazzetta dello Sport Monday after the 1989 and 1990 European Champions had crushed as Roma 4-1.

One point clear of Juventus and with a game in hand, Milan played perhaps their best soccer of the season against a Roma side without Brazilian defender Aldair, Italy midfielder Giuseppe Giannini and German striker Rudi Voeller.

Appelmans wins 1st tennis title

SCOTTSDALE, Arizona (R) — Third-seeded Sabine Appelmans of Belgium won 11 of the last 13 games Sunday to capture her first professional title with a 7-5 6-1 win over 15-year-old American Chanda Rubin in the \$150,000 Arizona Tennis Classic.

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt 'n' Jeff



JORDAN TIMES, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 1991

Garcia, McColgan win New York Marathon

NEW YORK (R) — Liz McColgan backed up a bold prediction — and took away \$45,000 and a Mercedes-Benz car — by winning the New York City Marathon Sunday.

McColgan, women's world champion over 10,000 metres, predicted victory during the build-up for the marathon despite having never before run the distance competitively.

"I had enough confidence to know I could beat any of the girls in the field," a smiling McColgan said after her triumph. "Next time I'll be a little better prepared and go for a better time."

McColgan's time of two hours 27 minutes, 23 seconds was good enough to bring a \$25,000 bonus as she finished a comfortable 55 seconds ahead of runner-up Olga Markova of the Soviet Union. Lisa Ondieck of Australia was third in 2:28.53.

Salvador Garcia won the men's race in 2:09.28 to beat compatriot Andres Espinoza by 32 seconds. Garcia's time brought him a bonus of \$35,000 in addition to the \$20,000 prize for first place.

Agassi will not play in the Grand Slam Cup

LONDON (R) — Andre Agassi, the flamboyant American at the centre of a row over the inaugural Grand Slam Cup last year, has turned down an invitation to play in this year's event, organisers said Monday.

But the 1991 cup, to be played in Munich next month with a prize of \$6 million, has attracted a top field, including all the year's Grand Slam champions.

Boris Becker, Jim Courier, Michael Stich and Stefan Edberg will join the 16-man battle for the top prize of \$2 million dollars. Ivan Lendl, runner-up to Becker in the Australian Open final, and veteran favourite Jimmy Connors will also appear.

Agassi, who lost this year's French Open final to Courier, provoked a row last year when he broke a contract by pulling out of the Grand Slam Cup at the last minute, saying it was not an important event.

He was later fined \$25,000.

Several other players criticised the cup, saying its prize money was too large and it was an attempt by the Grand Slam chairmen and the International Tennis Federation (ITF) to overshadow

last year's winner, American Pete Sampras, qualified only as one of the two alternates this time, based on his Grand Slam performance over the year, and decided to give up his place to the next in line, Australian Todd Woodbridge.

"Sampras didn't want to come to Europe without the certainty that he would play," Barnes said.

The field also includes Australian Open semifinalist Patrick McEnroe and his American compatriot David Wheaton, who reached the last four at Wimbledon.

Gough back in Scotland squad after argument

LONDON (R) — Richard Gough has been recalled to Scotland's squad for a European Championship qualifier against San Marino next week, just two months after a highly publicised row with international manager Andy Roxburgh.

Gough and Roxburgh were involved in a public argument at

Glasgow Airport in September as Scotland returned from their Group 2 qualifying clash with Switzerland in Berne.

The Glasgow Rangers captain had declared himself unfit to play just 24 hours before the 2-2 draw and Roxburgh was upset by the lateness of the influential defender's withdrawal.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 1991

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The late evening finds you with many interesting ideas and a considerable amount of energy. Getting together with others can lead to a great deal of positive progress and success.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Joining with good friends and interesting acquaintances at the many interesting outlets that mean anything at all to you can bring best results.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You are more humanitarian than usually now and are able to see how you can be more a force in the world of outside activity and especially where social service is concerned.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You can certainly join with newsworthy in the things they like to do the most and find out the various factors that have made them a success.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Listen to that prophetic hunch that is trying to give you the right slant now can make better progress in your dealings with others.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Think out what you would like to have that brings more success with you and your partners and then get in touch with them and let them know what is in your mind.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) This is your time to make sure you are

speeding best on McColgan's mind after the race.

UPON being presented with her brand new Mercedes, she said: "Thank you very much. I'm sure we'll drive fast in it."

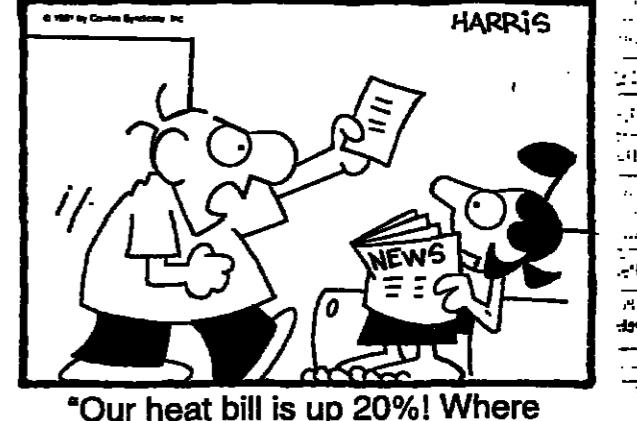
LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Think out what you would like to have that brings more success with you and your partners and then get in touch with them and let them know what is in your mind.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Take some time out to show you are socially minded or where your own hangups, talents are concerned.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You are in a position to make a look at surrounding conditions to see just how you can best benefit through better preparing yourself for future outcome.

THE BETTER HALF.

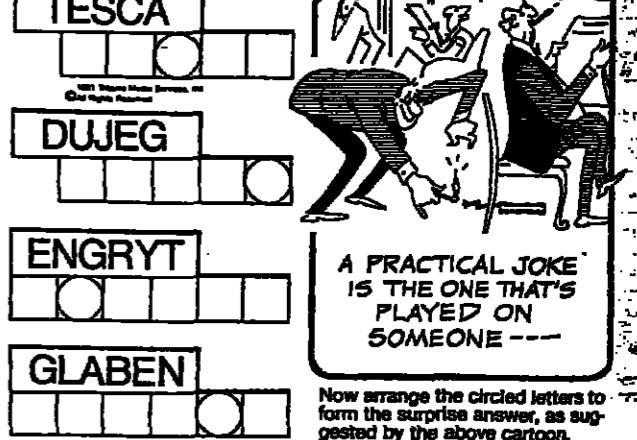
By Harris



JUMBLE.

THAT SCRABBLE WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee



Print answer here:

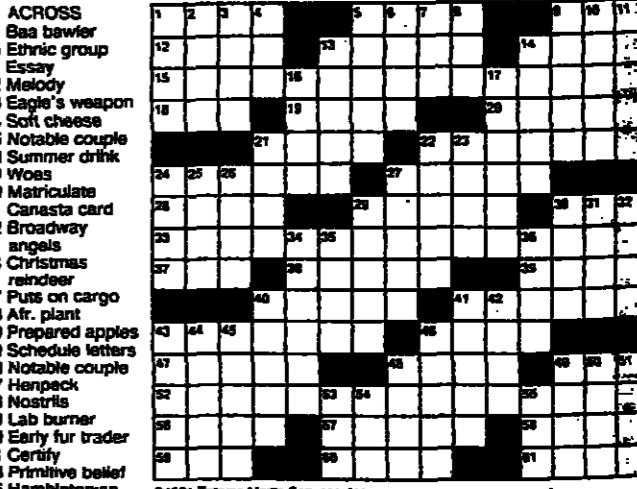
(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: WAVER PUPIL TRUANT GLOOMY

Answer: Jewelry is the only thing that doesn't wear out -- WHEN YOU WEAR IT OUT

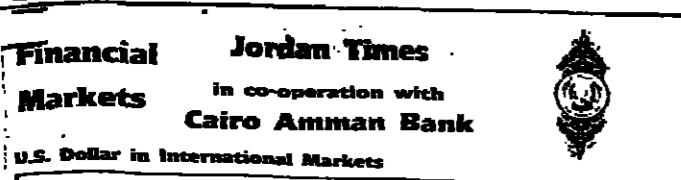
THE Daily Crossword

by Betty Jorgenson



Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

ACROSS																				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33
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Arms makers still see main markets in M.E.

DUBAI (R) — Arms merchants, unimpressed by the peace talks between Israel and its Arab foes, turned out in force in Dubai Sunday convinced the Middle East remains one of the last promising arms markets in the world.

The Dubai '91 airshow has attracted more than 400 defence firms, all eager to sell weapons to nations for whom the Gulf war was a graphic illustration of the need for self-defence.

"In our view all of the Gulf countries have come to the realisation that they have to increase their defence capabilities as a result of the war," said Aldo Massaro, president of Raytheon's Saudi Arabian programme.

The chairman of Thomson-CSF said that despite falling world arms spending, his company will stick to its core military businesses rather than diversify like many of its competitors.

"We do not believe in the swords to ploughshares theory," Thomson-CSF Chairman Alain Gomez told Reuters in an interview.

Paris-based Thomson-CSF would continue with its strategy of expanding its defence activities through selective acquisitions, joint ventures and cooperation agreements, he said.

"Our belief is that they (Gulf states) will definitely devote more funds for their defence," Mr. Massaro said.

"There are only two growth areas in the world — the Middle East and the Far East," said a European industry official who asked not to be named.

"Obviously the Middle East peace talks could change that, but my view is that the talks won't have much of an effect, certainly not in the short term," he pointed out.

Mr. Massaro said that despite the talks countries in the region would still have to defend themselves. "The history of the Middle East is such that even with a successful peace conference people are going to have to defend themselves."

Industry officials at the conference, which opened Sunday, predict the peace talks will drag on for years, leaving the region's appetite for arms as strong as ever.

"Right or wrong, we believe that we don't need that," he said. "We believe that by strictly capitalising on positions in our core businesses in defence we can fare well financially."

Mr. Gomez repeated earlier forecasts that Thomson-CSF, whose products include missile systems, fighter aircraft, electronics and flight simulators, would report higher profits through 1993 despite the expected decline in world arms sales following the end of the cold war.

Thomson-CSF had not attributable profit of 2.18 billion francs (\$390 million) in 1990.

Mr. Gomez said Thomson-CSF's 1991 earnings could increase by around 5.6 per cent — its first-half net attributable income — but stressed that this was not a forecast or commitment.

Mr. Gomez said he saw overall defence spending declining in the next few years as the United States and European countries pared down their military budgets.

In and of itself, that would appear to make all of the countries in the area vulnerable to the threat of aggressive force," he added.

Some of the region's wealthiest states make no secret of their wish to arm against future attack.

Saudi Arabia, which plans to double the size of its armed forces, said last week it wants to extend its Al Yamamah air defence project.

Arms industry executives expect major new deals over the next few years but several offi-

cially elaborated.

He emphasised the republic's economic capability, saying Belarus had produced consumer goods in the past which had proved exportable. He assured German officials the republic would not use credits to buy food supplies.

The republic still suffered from effects of the 1986 disaster at Chernobyl, nuclear power station in the Ukraine and some people would need resettling from highly radioactive areas in the future, he said.

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But he expected the fall in Western spending to bottom out near the middle of the decade and arms spending in the Middle East and the Far East to rise throughout the period, improving the outlook for the industry towards the end of the 1990s.

"Even if we don't succeed in compensating with increased market share for the shrinking overall market ... we will be in a position to see our profits ... regularly increase as of 1991 from efficiency improvements, cost cutting, restructuring," he pointed out.

Mr. Gomez said he was not averse to expanding the company's non-defence activities, but he added this would be pursued by exploiting technologies developed from its existing military work for civilian uses.

Mr. Gomez said that over the longer term, the firm would continue to pursue its strategy of making acquisitions or finding joint ventures and cooperation agreement to enhance its defence business.

"We will try to make the most of the market opportunities, wherever they lie, but we don't think that will be enough," he added.

"Therefore we also have a very definite ... policy of extending our base, which means participating in the quite huge restructuring ... in the Western world's defence industry," he noted.

He said further restructuring of Europe's defence industry, with increasing cross-border mergers and joint ventures, was desirable and probably inevitable because national markets could not support the necessary research and development spending.

Neither are we believers in either diversification strategies, like if you put a few billion francs on the table and you buy ... an automotive electronics or telecoms business," Mr. Gomez said, adding Thomson-CSF had considered and rejected both options.

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New world order may put in order global debt disorder

WASHINGTON (AP) — Debt forgiveness is becoming part of the new world order as the fall of communism focuses the attention of major industrial governments on hard times in eastern Europe and the Third World.

In recent years, 14 creditor governments have forgiven more than \$30 billion owed them by nearly 150 countries, World Bank officials estimate.

"Step by step there are more and more precedents to write some of the debt off the books," said Ernest Preec, former chief economist at the U.S. Agency for International Development.

Eventually, even some of the Soviet Union's \$65 billion debt will have to be forgiven, said Mr. Preec, now an economics analyst at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies, a private think tank in Washington.

The United States, which has the most debt to forgive, has been among the slowest to come around.

Debt reductions by the United States and other lenders of more than \$10 billion each for Poland and Egypt increased pressure to write off debt of other countries with huge foreign obligations.

The creditors said these were special cases: Egypt was being rewarded for its help in the Gulf war, Poland for taking a bold lead in bringing eastern Europe out of the communist system.

Nonetheless, many countries poorer than Egypt or Poland consider themselves equally deserving.

Debtors still owe about \$300 billion to individual governments

and \$1 trillion to banks, other private lenders and international organisations.

In addition to the United States and Germany, countries that already have forgiven debt to one or more poorer nations include France, Belgium, Britain, Canada, Japan, Norway, Denmark, the Netherlands, Italy, Sweden, Switzerland and Finland.

For the borrowers, debt forgiveness offers a partial solution to a financial headache that won't go away.

For the lenders, it offers a way of boosting other economies and opens the way to collecting at least small amounts from countries that, in some cases, haven't been paying anything.

At least temporarily, it seems to have eased pressure from Third World debt.

"Things are quiet now, but that debt bomb is still ticking out there," said Riordan Roett, director of Latin American studies at Johns Hopkins University.

He said a crisis could erupt if there were a new surge in the price of oil or interest rates or if a serious recession shrinks markets for the goods of debtor countries.

Britain has taken a leading role in the anti-debt crusade. Prime Minister John Major proposed last year that industrial giants write off \$17 billion in loans to 20 of the world's poorest countries, mostly in sub-Saharan Africa.

Mr. Major was pressing the proposal at a recent meeting of the so-called Paris Club, where the world's leading lenders gather. He has said Britain will go ahead with its own reductions if a

U.S. administration, facing a budget deficit estimated at \$282 billion, is partly constrained by a new law that requires action by Congress when a debt writeoff reduces U.S. income.

U.S. officials say the American role in Mr. Major's proposal would be to forgive about two-thirds of what the 20 countries owe the United States for arms, food aid, development aid and loans from the Export-Import Bank. The World Bank's top economist on debt, John Underwood, estimates the U.S. share at \$1.2 billion.

Japan has indicated it would go along only when all the others do.

The United States already has forgiven nearly \$1 billion of debt for the poorest countries. It has started to do more for countries in the western hemisphere, some of them rather more prosperous than those Mr. Major wants to help, under a programme called "Enterprise for the Americans."

The grandfather of all aid programmes — the U.S. Marshall plan for Western Europe after World War II — was largely

grants. In the 1960s the United States turned to making loans instead. It came late to debt forgiveness, beginning in the 1989.

Castro declares Cuba 'wide open' to foreign investment

ing, he said.

Mr. Castro said the new investors would not be allowed to become "owners of our country," an apparent reference to the situation before the 1959 revolution when U.S. businessmen controlled large parts of the Cuban economy.

"We Cubans will be the owners of our own country," he said, adding "But we will be the best possible partners in the search for common interests."

Cuban officials say the island has struck more than 50 deals on projects with foreign investors so far this year and is negotiating another 100 ventures.

Mr. Castro said the foreign investment drive did not contradict the socialist ideology espoused by his one-party communist government.

"Collaboration between the socialist system and the capitalist

system is perfectly compatible," he said.

The trade fair opened a week before an expected debate at the United Nations General Assembly on a 30-year-old U.S. trade embargo against Cuba, which Havana wants lifted.

Foreign Trade Minister Ricardo Cabrisas said Cuba's efforts to extend its international trade links made the U.S. embargo all the more "unreal, condemnable, absurd and criminal."

Mr. Castro said Cuba was in fact confronting a twin blockade, the U.S. embargo coupled with the collapse of communism in eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, which was gradually blocking off what had been the source of 85 per cent of Cuba's trade.

Reflecting this realignment of Cuban trade, fewer Soviet companies were represented at this

year's fair, although one significant newcomer was the chamber of commerce at Lithuania, the newly independent Baltic state recognised by Havana.

Another listed new exhibitor was the trade ministry of Iraq. Cuba opposed the U.S.-led coalition that fought against Iraq in the Gulf war earlier this year.

Unlike past years, there were no firms representing Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, Poland or Romania, all former communist allies of Cuba and former trading partners of the now-defunct Comecon.

Stressing what he called the "markedly Latin American character" of the fair, Mr. Cabrisas said 10 Latin American countries were represented out of the total 24 nations present.

The 1991 fair also featured the strongest Cuban participation ever of 110 companies, 45 more than last year.

Dr. Ghada Bishouty Baka een

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Millions stay at home in 'biggest South African strike ever'

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Millions of black South Africans went on strike Monday in what labour unions called the biggest stoppage in the country's history and a massive vote of no confidence in the white government.

The two-day protest against the imposition of value added tax (VAT) was baptised in blood. An eve-of-strike battle between rival black factions on a gold mine killed 15 and wounded 43.

At least 19 other blacks died in sporadic outbreaks of township warfare across the country Sunday. It could not be determined if these deaths were linked to the labour unrest or were the result of continuing political fighting that has killed more than 3,000 in black townships in the past year.

Jay Naidoo, head of the umbrella Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU), said three million workers had stayed at home to protest against VAT which many label an "apartheid tax." Protesters say it unfairly penalises poor blacks by raising the prices of basic foods.

"Initial information indicates this is the biggest strike ever in this country," Mr. Naidoo said. "It is clearly almost a referendum in which people have cast a

vote of no confidence in the government."

Mr. Naidoo said between 80 and 90 per cent of black workers in cities, towns and the countryside had obeyed the strike call by COSATU and its allies, principally Nelson Mandela's African National Congress (ANC).

He said the white government of President F.W. de Klerk had been given a powerful message that it cannot restructure the economy without the consent of the mass black movements.

Although the strike was primarily over VAT, it was seen as a major trial of strength between the government and the ANC, the biggest black party, as they prepare for negotiations on a democratic constitution.

With the government running the economy and controlling the security forces, and with anti-apartheid sanctions crumbling and its armed struggle suspended, mass action is the ANC's most powerful lever.

The ANC and its labour allies want a real say in running the transition from 300 years of white supremacy.

Government, unions and the ANC had appealed for calm during the strike and police reported

no intimidation or violence directly linked to the stoppage.

Reuter photographer Judy Ngwenya saw four shot and hacked bodies in the townships of Vosloorus and Katlehong east of Johannesburg Monday, but the motives for their killing were not clear.

The deaths all occurred near migrant worker hostels, strongholds of the anti-strike Inkatha Freedom Party of Zulu leader Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi. But the hostels have been focal points for violence throughout the township wars and most were peaceful Monday.

Anglo-American Corporation reported 15 killed at its President Steyn Mine at Welkom, south of Johannesburg, when strikers apparently tried to prevent workers reporting for the night shift Sunday.

Mr. Naidoo said half the nation's gold miners had stopped work and that farm workers had joined a national stayaway for the first time.

Initial reports from across the country were of empty commuter trains of buses and businesses limping along, if at all, with skeleton white crews. The only

busy roads were from white suburbs.

It was like a sleepy Sunday in central Johannesburg, the business and industrial heart of the nation, and in its biggest satellite city, Soweto.

COSATU spokesman Neil Coleman reported between 90 and 100 per cent absenteeism in "all major industrial areas," but that was disputed by police.

National headquarters reported 100 per cent effectiveness of transport companies reported complete backing for the strike in Cape Town's black township and commuter volumes around Durban running at 15 per cent of normal.

However, spokesman for the transport companies reported complete backing for the strike in Cape Town's black township and commuter volumes around Durban running at 15 per cent of normal.

The industrial cities of Port Elizabeth and East London were described as being like ghost towns and the vehicle manufacturing industry in the area was at a standstill.

The government says the strike could cost the country, already gripped by the longest recession since World War II, some 2.5 billion rands (\$900 million).

Fierce fighting in Croatia casts shadow over peace talks

BELGRADE (R) — The Yugoslav army and Croatian forces blasted each other with artillery and mortars across Croatia Monday in some of the fiercest battles of their four-month conflict.

In heavy fighting since Friday, at least 33 people have been killed and more than 10,000 refugees driven from their homes.

The clashes erupted despite the threat of European Community (EC) sanctions on any republic that does not accept an EC plan to transform Yugoslavia into a loose grouping of its six republics.

Serbia is the only one that has rejected the latest EC attempt to end the conflict prompted by Croatia's declaration of independence in June. Talks on the proposal are scheduled Tuesday in the Hague.

Tanjug News Agency said the Serb-led army and Serbian irregulars had landed on the Croatian bank of the Danube River Sunday and started "final operations" to seize the town of Vukovar after a siege of more than 10 weeks.

Militants kill Communist politician in Punjab

NEW DELHI (R) — Sikh militants killed a Communist politician and his five bodyguards in an ambush near the city of Jalandhar in the north Indian state of Punjab Monday, domestic news agencies reported.

They said Sarwan Singh Cheema, a former member of the state legislature, was killed when his car was riddled with bullets in the ambush. The attackers escaped by car.

Mr. Cheema and his bodyguards were among at least 21 people killed in Punjab since Sunday night in the Sikh militant campaign for an independent homeland they call Khalistan, or land of the pure.

Communists are frequently targeted by the militants because they believe in a united India and frequently speak out against inde-

pendence.

Among the other dead were nine militants killed in encounters with security forces, the agencies said.

Police have reported nearly 5,000 deaths this year in the campaign. This compares with 3,800 last year, which was double the number of deaths in 1989.

Army troops, fanning out by the thousands search for Sikh secessionists, exchanged heavy fire early Monday with militants in one of their main hideout villages, sources said.

Little official word has emerged since the army launched Operation Night Thunder at 7 p.m. (1330 GMT) Sunday, but a senior police official said 11,000 to 12,000 troops were searching for the militants in the Tarn Taran district of Punjab state.

Zagreb Motorway which has been closed for weeks.

In Belgrade, Serbia's ruling Socialist Party of former Communists met ahead of a session of parliament to consider whether to accept the EC plan, which would formally end the 73-year-old Yugoslav state in its present form.

Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic was defiant.

Tanjug quoted him as saying in talks Sunday with Greek Foreign Minister Antonis Samaras: "Serbia cannot accept any ultimatum or the pressures it has been subjected to."

The EC has brokered most of the 10 ceasefires that have collapsed since clashes began.

The Grza Harbour area came under fire. Croatian fighters launched mortar shells from just outside the walls of the city's old town.

Heavy fighting erupted in the northeastern city of Osijek, where six people were killed overnight, in Karlovac and Sisak in central Croatia and around Nova Gradiska on the Belgrade-

Boat people transferred to defuse tensions in Hong Kong

HONG KONG (AP) — A week after agreeing on a plan to return Vietnamese refugees, British officials Monday began moving 1,000 residents of the largest refugee camp in an effort to defuse rising tensions.

More than 1,500 residents of the Whitehead Camp demonstrated against the Oct. 29 agreement signed by Vietnamese and British officials to return the refugees, by force if necessary, to their impoverished homeland.

More than 600 officers mounted a massive effort to move Vietnamese out of one section of the Whitehead Camp and into either the High Island Camp or another section of Whitehead. The camp is home to more than 25,000 Vietnamese.

No further details were immediately available as to whether the force was used to move the Vietnamese or how long the operation would take.

A government statement said that the operation was "designed for more harmonious living conditions."

Section 3 has been the scene of several violent incidents in the last week. Whitehead is considered the most dangerous of Hong Kong's 12 camps.

On Saturday, more than 400 Vietnamese hurled stones and punches at each other in a one-hour brawl. Security officers quelled the Vietnamese after firing dozens of tear gas canisters.

On Friday night, eight people were injured in a melee involving 300 Vietnamese.

Soul has waged an escalating public campaign, including threats of military action, to convince the North to give up nuclear weapons development. The North has imposed a series of conditions, the latest being the withdrawal of U.S. nuclear protection for South Korea.

South Korea's Foreign Minister Monday accused the North of using those demands as an excuse to delay opening its nuclear facilities to international inspection.

Soviet general urges Korean weapons cuts, U.S. pullout

SEOUL (AP) — The first Soviet general to visit South Korea proposed Monday that it make major arms cuts along with rival North Korea, and said U.S. troops should withdraw from the South to speed reconciliation.

The Soviet Union is the only major power that has diplomatic ties to both the totalitarian Communist North and pro-Western South Korea and is sometimes seen as a pivotal player in easing tensions on the divided Korean peninsula.

The peninsula was partitioned in 1945. The two Koreas fought a war in 1950-53, and never signed a peace treaty. Some 1.5 million troops guard either side of their tightly sealed border, the last front in the cold war.

"Neither the USSR nor the USA are interested in the aggravation of the situation in Korea," said General Viktor Novozhilov, commander of the

Soviet Far Eastern military. He was in Seoul to attend a conference on Soviet military policy organised by Dankook University.

Sergey S. Razov, chief of the Soviet Foreign Ministry's Far East Department, said Moscow wants North Korea to open its nuclear facilities. But he said Moscow will not use military or political pressures to force inspections.

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South Korea's Foreign Minister Monday accused the North of using those demands as an excuse to delay opening its nuclear facilities to international inspection.

Philippines to discuss Burma's return to constitutional rule

BANGKOK (AP) — The Philippine foreign secretary said Monday he will visit Burma at the end of November to discuss how the country's military rulers can return it to constitutional government.

Foreign Minister Raul Manglapus said he had wanted to go to Rangoon after attending a regional security conference that began Monday in Bangkok, but the trip had to be delayed.

The Burmese "do not seem ready to receive me yet," he said, adding they apparently were preparing for visits by other foreign ministers.

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Imelda Marcos returns to rapturous welcome

MANILA (R) — Imelda Marcos returned from exile Monday to a tumultuous welcome in the country she and her disgraced late husband are accused of plundering and told crowds outside her luxury hotel she would fight poverty.

"I inherited from Marcos his love for this nation. This nation can be great again..." the widow of ousted Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos told thousands of supporters.

"As long as there is one Filipino who is poor, Imelda's work will not be over," she told cheering well-wishers waving balloons and a placard reading "we love you, Imelda" outside the Philippine Plaza Hotel.

Mrs. Marcos has booked the imperial suite at a cost of \$2,000 a day. Hotel staff said her entourage had occupied all 60 rooms on the 11th floor overlooking Manila Bay.

Mrs. Marcos, forced into exile with her husband by a 1986 "people's power" revolt led by now-President Corazon Aquino, said she had no political agenda.

"But I will give my heart as the mother of the nation. I am appealing on bended knees for us to be united."

Mrs. Marcos, 62, arrived from Hawaii by chartered Jet to face charges that she helped steal \$5 billion from the impoverished nation during the Marcos' 20 years in power.

Near-hysterical supporters chanted and let off firecrackers to welcome Mrs. Marcos, who says she has come home to clear the family name and arrange to bury her husband in the Philippines.

Outside the hotel, supporters created a festive atmosphere. Streamers read "Marcos again" and "Marcos for 1992" referring to a possible bid for presidential elections in May next year.

The air rang with the sound of drums, firecrackers and shouts of "Marcos pa rin" (Marcos forever).

Mrs. Aquino held the Marcos responsible for the airport assassination of her husband, opposition leader Benigno Aquino, when he returned from exile in 1983.

But she was forced to let Mrs. Marcos return because of the world-wide legal battle to recover the billions her government says

she stole.

Unless Mrs. Marcos is put on trial by December, the Swiss government will unfreeze the couple's assets there and return them to her.

On the flight from Hawaii, Mrs. Marcos alternated between tears and joy. Clutching a rosary while drinking champagne, she poured a second glass, declaring: "I am doubly lucky. This one's for Ferdinand."



Imelda Marcos cos Jr., who returned last week, presented her with a bunch of red roses.

Excited followers shouted "Imelda, Imelda, we love you" and carried streamers reading "Welcome home, ma'am" as they lined the streets to hail the return of the "iron butterfly" to the city she once ruled as governor.

"My God, my God," exclaimed an awestruck and tearful Mrs. Marcos, driving past the screaming supporters in her bullet-proof black van and blowing kisses at them.

Ex-President Marcos died in exile in 1989. His wife opened his refrigerator to find his hair and him

had been married to a great lady as I was, a clear break is the most loyal of solutions," Michele said.

Marcos was closely involved in his husband's career.

Master faker 'has fooled' the art world

COLUMN

Rocard to divorce

PARIS (R) — Presidential hopeful Michel Rocard broke one of France's longest-established political taboos Monday when he told a magazine interviewer he was about to divorce.

In contrast to the United States, where politicians' careers have been broken by press scrutiny of their private lives, there is tacit agreement between France's press and politicians to keep the subject under wraps.

"We are lucky enough to be victims of the American press syndrome where the private lives of public figures are spoken all over the front pages," Mr. Rocard told the weekly newspaper magazine Le Point. "I trust the French press not to go overboard about this (his impending divorce)," said Mr. Rocard, Socialist prime minister from 1988 until earlier this year.

Mr. Rocard, 61, said of his impending divorce: "I am not married to a great lady as I was, a clear break is the most loyal of solutions," Michele said.

Ex-President Rocard died in 1989. His wife opened his refrigerator to find his hair and him

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Marcos was closely involved in his husband's career.

Master faker 'has fooled' the art world

LONDON (R) — A British artist claimed in a book published Monday to have sold more than 1,000 fake old masters and described some tricks of his trade.

Streamers read "Marcos again" and "Marcos for 1992" referring to a possible bid for presidential elections in May next year.

But Mrs. Aquino flatly rejected the request for an audience. "This person is really a liar... their propaganda style is the big lie... the president has no time for her," said Press Undersecretary Horacio Paredes.

Mrs. Aquino holds the Marcos responsible for the airport assassination of her husband, opposition leader Benigno Aquino, when he returned from exile in 1983.

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